THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE V.V.S.RAO

WRIT PETITION NO.11663 of 2004

DATED:1.8.2005

Between:

The Prudential Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.

…Petitioner

And

M/s.Bitla Rangaiah & Company, and others

…Respondents

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE V.V.S.RAO

WRIT PETITION NO.11663 OF 2004

ORDER:

The Prudential Cooperative Bank Limited, Secunderabad, assails the order of the Cooperative Tribunal, Hyderabad, insofar as the same reduces rate of interest on the amount payable from 22% to 6% per annum. Be it noted that the petitioner bank

filed O.P. under Section 37(1) of the A.P.Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, 1995 before the Tribunal for recovery of amount from the borrowers with interest at 22% per annum and the Tribunal passed award reducing the rate of interest to 6%.

A learned Single Judge of this Court (Goda Raghuram, J) in **A.P.State Cooperative Bank Ltd. V. Cooperative Tribunal, Hyderabad**, considered the issue whether Cooperative Tribunal is empowered to invoke and rely on the provisions of Section 34 of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 to scale down the interest contrary to the agreement between parties. His Lordship after elaborate discussion of the issue, held that the Cooperative Tribunal constituted under Section 75 of the A.P. Cooperative Societies Act, 1964 is denuded of any such power to interfere with rate of interest that is owed by a debtor to company like petitioner. The question raised in this Writ Petition is therefore squarely covered by said judgment. The learned counsel for contesting respondents does not dispute the legal position.

Following the same, the Writ Petition is allowed modifying the impugned order and further observing that petitioner bank shall be entitled to recover the interest from the borrowers as per the award/certificate issued by competent authority under the Act.

The Writ Petition is accordingly allowed.

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(V.V.S.RAO, J)

1.8.2005

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